

D-65

Cortney Ingle

From: Leahe Swayze <leaheswayze@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 2:19 PM
To: Cortney Ingle
Subject: Comp Plan And DEIS Comments

Included below are my comments to the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan in its current form is insufficient and does not adequately address issues raised during Scoping, including several that I submitted in January 2019.

Water—Ground and Surface

I requested an analysis of impacts of the plan on senior water rights holders, ground water, stream flows (including instream flow rules), and lake levels, including whether new developments would have a physically and legally available water supply. The draft plan provides inadequate provisions to protect water quantity for senior water rights holders, farms and ranches, fish and wildlife, and recreation. The plan is also inconsistent with the instream flow rules for watersheds in the county- and with state law.

The plan needs to include recognition of the water rights of both the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Yakama Nation.

Wildfire

I requested an analysis of the impacts of the plan on emergency services, especially fire protection for firefighters and residents. The draft plan inadequately addresses this critical issue. There is enough currently available information through studies and programs, like Firewise, that this section should be more robust. It should include provisions for updating building codes, provision of zoning and other incentives that would encourage location of residences where adequate access and egress is available for themselves and for emergency workers/equipment, and it should include maintenance of a network of secondary escape routes across the county.

Air Quality

I requested an analysis of impacts to air quality, including effects of wood smoke on winter air quality, especially in lower elevation areas such as where I live in Twisp where air settles and air quality is especially impaired. This analysis has not been included in the draft plan--and should be. It is imperative that Okanogan County identify its important role in minimizing particulate matter emission levels by working with the Department of Ecology and non-profit organizations through incentives, fees, building codes, burn bans, and providing information.

Alternative 4

I requested analysis of a Fourth Alternative, as recommended by the Methow Valley Citizens Council. Although the analyses of alternatives are inadequate, as partially expressed above, Alternatives 3 and 4 appear most effective at minimizing adverse effects of growth and increasing resilience to wildfires.

Sub-area (or basin) planning

Sub-area planning needs to occur and be guided by local advisory committees that recognize the unique culture and geography of this large county. More specifically, a valid revision of the Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area (MVMCPA) needs to be completed. A citizen's advisory committee needs to be activated to provide advice on the revision. Inclusion of the entire Methow Valley into the MVMCPA should be analyzed.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Leahe Swayze
Twisp, WA

